

R. inerme can be maintained as a distinct species, there is no question that *R. saxosum* is distinct from it in several fairly marked characters.

The two varieties of the eastern *Ribes hirtellum* should bear the following names.

RIBES HIRTELLUM Michx., var. **calcicola** (Fernald) n. comb. *R. oxycanthoides*, var. *calcicola* Fernald, RHODORA, vii. 155 (1905).

R. HIRTELLUM, var. **saxosum** (Hook.) n. comb. *R. saxosum* Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. i. 231 (1834). *R. oxycanthoides saxosum* (Hook.) Coville, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. iv. 100 (1893) as to name-bringing synonym.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

ORNITHOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON CLEISTOGAMY.— If anyone whose winter rambles lead him along wet wood borders will take note of clumps of *Panicum clandestinum* he will find the upper sheaths split to shreds while still uninjured at the junction with the dry and yellow blade above. A few winters ago the cause of this was made known to the writer when watching a flock of chickadees near Takoma Park, a suburb of Washington, D. C. These animated balls of gray and black were having a feast on the big fat grains of the cleistogamous spikelets concealed in the sheaths. I have since found occasional clumps of *Panicum boscii* also with shredded upper sheaths. Evidently the chickadees knew of this character of *P. clandestinum* and profited by it before Linnaeus bestowed the name "clandestinum" on the species because of it.— AGNES CHASE, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

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